

Procure-to-Pay Capability Summary

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SUBJECT: Procurement Data Standards Validation Service

BACKGROUND: Defense Pricing and Contracting (DPC) has created several system-agnostic data standards that support the creation, translation, processing, and sharing of procurement actions. These include standards for purchase requests (Purchase Request Data Standard (PRDS)) and contracts (Procurement Data Standard (PDS)). To ensure the accuracy and validity of the data being sent, DPC has partnered with the Defense Logistics Agency to use their Global EXchange (GEX) service to perform business rules validations on purchase request and contract data quality and route PDS and PRDS data to receiving systems. The results of these data and business rules validations are provided via the PDS Validation Response Schema and available in DPC's Procurement Business Intelligence System (PBIS); users and stakeholders may then systematically identify and correct identified data quality issues.

POLICY: Section 862 of the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) required DoD to establish enterprise-level standards for contracting. PDS and PRDS are required for use by regulation (Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) Procedures, Guidance, and Instruction (PGI) 204.201 and 211.7001 respectively). GEX business rules are based on FAR requirements for purchase requests and procurement actions.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE: GEX provides business rules validations on PRDS and PDS transactions prior to routing to the target system. GEX supports pre-award and at-time-of-award validation. The validations are executed as both failures and warnings and are sent back to the sending system in the PDS Validation Response Schema.

DATA STANDARDS: The Validation Response schema, currently at Version 4.2, is an XML-based, non-proprietary data standard. It is available to download at the DPC website at https://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/pdi/eb/procurement_data_standard.html. The error messages carried by the schema, including fatal errors and warnings, have been standardized and published.

IMPACT: Use of the PDS validation response schema has allowed individual systems that create purchase requests or contract awards to understand issues that are making their transactions non-compliant. DPC has used the aggregate validation results to understand systemic problems across the enterprise, and identify root cause systems/components. This has resulted in huge improvements in contract quality (e.g. a 98% improvement in the use of some required clauses; a 94% improvement in contracts with missing Period of Performance or Delivery Date).

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